



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS  
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
1000 NORTH ALAMEDA STREET, BIG SUR ROOM  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

**Monday, February 8, 2016**

**10:00 AM**

AUDIO FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (16-0934)

**Attachments:**    [AUDIO](#)

Present:            Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Maria Brenes, Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Wendy Garen, Commissioner Sydney Kamlager, Commissioner John Kim, Commissioner Liz Seipel, Commissioner Janet Teague, Vice Chair Jacquelyn McCroskey, Vice Chair Wendy B. Smith and Chair Sunny Kang

Absent:            Commissioner Geneva Berger, Commissioner Candace Cooper and Commissioner Adrienne Konigar-Macklin

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1.    Call to Order. (16-0177)

**The meeting was called to order by Chair Kang at 10:02 a.m.**

2.    Approval of the minutes from the meeting of January 11, 2016. (16-0179)

**On motion of Vice Chair Smith, seconded by Commissioner Seipel (Commissioners Berger, Cooper and Konigar-Macklin being absent), this item was approved.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

3.    **"Opening and Connections"** - Welcome and Opening Context of the Commission's Annual Retreat by Elizabeth Sadlon, facilitator. (16-0178)

**Executive Director Tamara N. Hunter, MSW reported the following:**

- **Thanked Commissioner Garen for securing the donation that allowed**

Commissioners to come together for the annual retreat, including lunch and thanked Commissioner McCroskey for breakfast. Commissioner Garen noted that The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation was the donor;

- A survey is being emailed to all Commissioners; the survey was initiated by Board action on July 7, 2015 in which the Chief Executive Office was directed to begin reorganizing the County's governance structure.
  - o The County is contracting with Arroyo and Associates to complete a study on County Commissions. Commissioners are encouraged to review historical information such as past minutes and annual reports prior to responding to the survey.
- Commissioners were asked not to discuss their responses with other Commissioners to avoid potentially violating the Ralph M. Brown Act.

Facilitator, Elizabeth Sadlon opened the retreat by discussing the commitment shared by all Commissioners; the purpose of the retreat; and, agreements for a successful retreat.

As an introductory exercise, the Commission mission statement was reviewed and Commissioners shared the word or phrase that resonated most and spoke to why they are involved in the work.

Ms. Sadlon reviewed the retreat PowerPoint presentation and led discussion about historic Commission results; tools utilized by the Commission; and power dynamics.

Attachments:    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)  
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## **II. DISCUSSIONS**

4.    **"Commission Role for Greatest Impact"** - Discussion of the Commission's Role(s) in improving the lives of children, youth and families.    (16-0180)

**Small group activity and discussion ensued regarding the various roles played by the Commission, as drawn from the Commission's ordinance, interviews with Commissioners and conversations with Board Deputies.**

**Commissioners noted that different roles are played at different times and with different partners.**

**Consensus was reached regarding the Commission's need to emphasize and further develop the roles of:**

- Advisor to the Board of Supervisors;
- Partner to the Office of Child Protection (OCP); and
- Amplifier of the community voice.

Attachments:    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)  
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

5. **"Prioritize Issues"** - Discussion and Prioritization of the Commission's Areas of Focus. (16-0181)

Small group activity and discussion ensued regarding the benefits of prioritizing issues; how to prioritize issues; and, which issues to prioritize.

The OCP's December 16, 2015 report, Second Progress Update on the Blue Ribbon Commission for Child Protection Recommendations (BRCCP) was reviewed to identify areas in which the Commission is currently working with OCP and opportunities for additional partnering.

Commissioners shared their thoughts on broad areas of focus, including safety, prevention, "pre-removal", resource family recruitment and support, crossover youth, and mental health. Commissioners noted that many of these issues are complex with multiple layers. Commissioners also noted the challenges associated with measuring the Commission's progress or success of efforts/initiatives of which the Commission is not the lead entity.

Consensus was reached regarding prioritization of the Commission's work in the areas of:

- Prevention;
- Recruitment, retention and support of placement resources, including kinship caregivers; and
- Issues impacting children/youth with the greatest unmet needs-currently identified as crossover youth, Probation involved youth and CSEC youth.

It was also agreed that prioritization of these issues does not mean that the Commission will discontinue its ongoing work in other areas or addressing emerging issues.

Attachments:    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)  
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6.    **"Greater Impact by Working as a Whole"** - Discussion and Possible Action of Establishing New Initiatives and/or a New Committee Structure. (16-0182)

**Small group activity and discussion ensued regarding how to best communicate with Board Deputies; the role of committees; and, meeting redesign ideas.**

**Consensus was reached regarding the following plan for Commission interface with Board Deputies:**

- **Executive Director, Chair, and one or two Commissioners (based on subject matter) to brief Board Deputies on Commission activities at the Children and Families Well-Being Cluster meeting on a quarterly basis, and as needed;**
- **Executive Director to keep Board Deputies abreast of upcoming agenda items and issues that may be of interest; and**
- **Commissioners to establish communication plans with their respective Board Deputies.**

**In the interest of time, it was agreed that additional discussion was required regarding the role of committees and meeting redesign ideas. The Executive Committee will convene at a later date to discuss how to move forward, no action was taken.**

### **III. MISCELLANEOUS**

7.    Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on item(s) of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (16-0185)

**No members of the public addressed the Commission on this item.**

8.    Adjournment. (16-0186)

**The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.**